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THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: **MATSUO, Naoshi**

Group Art Unit: 2644

Serial No.: 09/801,897

Examiner: **Justin I. MICHALSKI**

Filed: **March 9, 2001**

P.T.O. Confirmation No.: 2593

For: **SPEAKER APPARATUS**

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION UNDER 37 CFR §1.116
- EXPEDITED RESPONSE -
GROUP ART UNIT 2644

MAIL STOP AF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

December 20, 2004

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated **November 1, 2004**, Applicant respectfully request reconsideration of the following prior art rejections:

1. Claims 2-5, 8 and 14 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **Shields** in view of JP Publication 3-159500 to Katsumi et al. (hereinafter "**JP '500'**");
2. Claim 6 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **Shields** in view of U.S. Patent 5,579,396 to Iida et al. (hereinafter "**Iida et al.**");
3. Claim 8 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **Shields** in view of **Iida et al.**;
4. Claims 9-11 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **Shields** in view of JP Publication 61-61598 to Haruo (hereinafter "**JP '598'**");

5. Claim 12 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **Shields** in view of U.S. Patent 5,521,765 to Wolfe (hereinafter "**Wolfe**"); and
6. Claim 13 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as unpatentable over **Shields** in view of JP Publication 9-212270 to Hornsari et al. (hereinafter "**JP '270**").

Although **Shields** and **JP '500** teach controlling a sound image position by phasing (synchronization) using delay elements, this results in only increasing a sound pressure in a specific direction or at a specific position and does not result in cancellation of interference between the individual transducers at signal control points, as in the present invention. Thus, none of the cited references teaches, mentions or suggest outputting a signal at the signal control point corresponding to the respective transducers or a sound interference canceling signal component for canceling an interference with the transducer serving as the other signal control points, as recited in claims 2 and 14 of the instant application, where claims 3-13 depend from claim 2.

Thus, all of the 35 USC §103(a) rejections should be reconsidered and withdrawn.

In view of the aforementioned remarks, claims 2-14 are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/801,897**
Response to Office Action dated November 1, 2004

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicant respectfully petitions for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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